

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attachment: New Sheet: Figure 4.

New Sheet

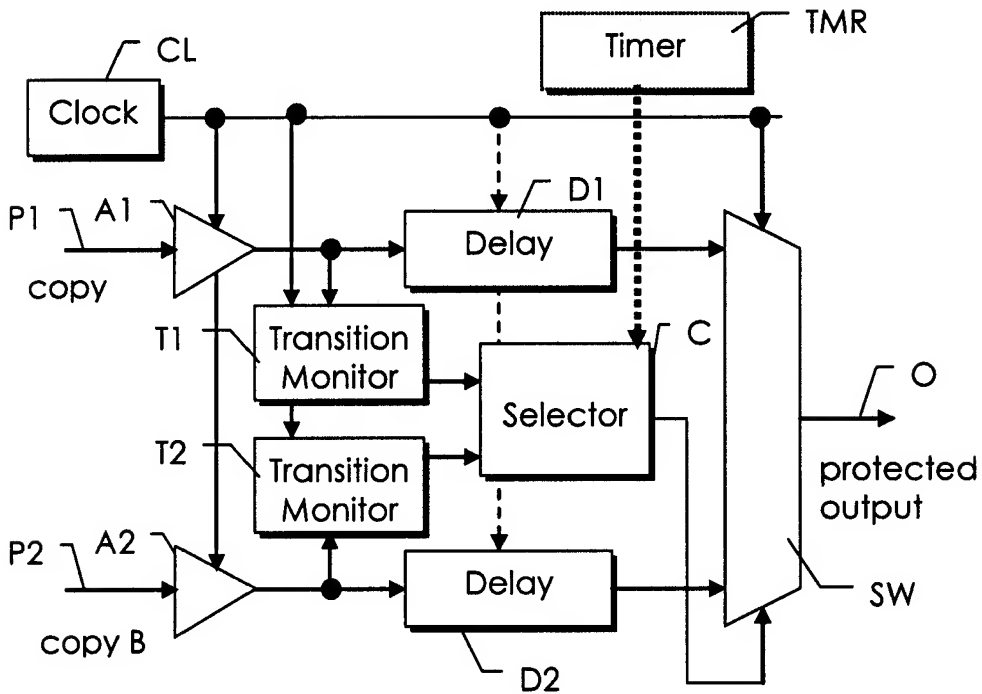


Fig. 4

REMARKS

This Amendment, filed in reply to the Office Action dated September 10, 2007, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are all the claims pending in the application. In the present Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 6, and 7, and add figure 4. No new matter is added.

Claim 3 is being canceled.

I. Objection to Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as allegedly not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In particular, the Examiner alleges that the “timer” claimed in claim 4 must be shown in a drawing, or the feature must be canceled from the claim. Applicants add Figure 4, which includes a “timer” in accordance with the specification and claims. In addition, Applicants amend the specification to describe new Figure 4.

In view of these self-explanatory amendments, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection.

II. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 3 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

With respect to claim 3, the Examiner alleges that the limitation of “monitoring ... for the presence of predefined signal patterns, wherein said signals appear to be valid if said predefined bit pattern is detected” is not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The specification discloses:

in a second improved embodiment, the selection is made more robust against such failure by allowing transition based selection only if the data signal itself is found to be valid, e.g., by presence of a frame pattern. A second monitor is therefore added, which searches for significant signal parts in the signals and enables transition-based selection only, if such significant signal part is found (Specification at page 7, second full paragraph).

Applicants respectfully submit that monitoring a signal for the presence of a predefined signal pattern or frame pattern is well known in the art, and a person of ordinary skill in the art would be able to make and/or use the invention by, for example, implementing any known method of searching for a particular frame pattern in a signal. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 3.

With respect to claim 4, the Examiner alleges that the limitation of “switch-over ... is enabled only if after lapse of said timer the condition persists that the selected signal does not contain bit level transitions” is not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The specification discloses, for example, “[i]n another preferred improvement of the invention, a timer is thus provided and switch-over is only initiated if the failure condition in the currently selected signal persists after a timeout.”

Applicants respectfully submit that the use of a timer, and the triggering of an event occurs after a timeout, are well known in the art, and a person of ordinary skill in the art would be able to make and/or use the invention by, for example, implementing any known timer, and switching to the other signal when “the condition persists (during a time

measured by the timer) that the selected signal does not contain bit level transitions,” as recited in claim 4. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 4.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the cited art of record.

With respect to claims 1, 6, and 7, Applicants amend those claims with elements of claim 3, which the Examiner has indicated contains allowable subject matter. Therefore, in view of these self-explanatory amendments, Applicants submit that claims 1, 6, and 7 are patentable over the cited art of record.

With respect to claims 2 and 5, they are dependent on amended claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 5 are patentable, at least by virtue of their dependencies.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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